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CAPTAIN W. H. SMYTH, R.N., President, in the Chair.

Professor P. A. Hansen, Director of the Observatory of Seeberg, and Associate of the Royal Astronomical Society, was present at the meeting.

Among the presents announced, the President particularly noticed some Manuscripts (presented by Lieut.-Gen. Sir T. M. Brisbane, F.R.A.S.), containing the originals of observations made at the Observatory at Paramatta; and also a collection of the Portraits of Eminent Astronomers, presented by G. Wilson, Esq., F.R.A.S.

In a letter to Mr. Hind, Professor Schumacher says: "The King of Denmark has offered the Comet Medal (20 Dutch ducats in gold) for the best discussion of Tycho's observations of the Comet of 1585. Professor Gauss is appointed judge. The papers must be sent to me before July 1st., 1847, without name, distinguished by a motto only, and the name of the author in a sealed paper, inscribed with the same motto. You will find in No. 533 of the *Astronomische Nachrichten* all the information which can be required.

"Professor Hansen, now at Greenwich, has calculated elliptical elements of the comet of 1825. If you intend a new and rigorous examination, you would do well to confer with him about it."

DUPLICITY of BIELA'S Comet.

Extract of a letter from T. Maclear, Esq., Astronomer at the Royal Observatory, Cape of Good Hope, to Capt. F. Beaufort, R.N.

"Gambart's (*i. e.* Biela's) comet has been observed since the 18th ultimo. Its offset continues receding from it. They are both so faint at present, owing to the strong moonlight, that measures of their relative distance cannot be obtained.

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"The following differences in right ascension and declination will give some idea of their rate of separation:—

	Diff. R.A.	Diff. Dec.
	s	′ ″
Feb. 18	10·5	4 52
19	11	5 36
20	11	5 47
25	15	6 26
26	15	6 59
March 3	17	7 24
5	23	7 19?
7	24	7 43

"The appendage is to the true north of the primary, and has smaller right ascension."

De Vico's Fourth Comet.

Elements.

By Hugh Breen, jun., Esq.

The following elliptic elements are computed by Gauss's method (*Theoria Motûs*) from M. Rumker's observations published in the *Monthly Notices* of the Royal Astronomical Society in April last, page 87. These observations, assuming the longitude of Hamburgh $39^m\ 54^s$ east, give the following data:—

Greenwich M.T.	Comet's Longitude.	Comet's Latitude.	Earth's Longitude.	Earth's Log. Rad. Vector.
1846.	° ′ ″	° ′ ″	° ′ ″	
Mar. 12·308359	22 6 8·90	+16 4 29·53	171 52 20·45	9·9975676
17·309478	23 41 51·63	21 50 47·04	176 50 51·45	9·9981787
23·321206	25 15 27·78	+28 3 8·00	182 48 43·15	9·9989353

which are afterwards corrected (before using them in the computations) for the comet's parallax in Gauss's manner. The geocentric longitudes and latitudes of the comet have been afterwards reduced to the mean equinox of Jan. 1.

Peribelion passage, 1846, March 5·64705, Greenwich Mean Solar Time.

Longitude of Perihelion on Orbit......	90° 36′ 4″·13	Mean Equinox of 1846, Jan. 1.
Longitude of Node........................	77 26 41·70	
Inclination	84 59 55·5	
Angle of Eccentricity	74 19 59·45	
Log. sine....................................	9·9835579	
Log. semi-axis major	1·2525675	
Mean daily motion	46″·89812	

Time of revolution = 75·7 years.

Motion direct.

These Elements satisfy the above Observations well.

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